The Southern PATRIOT

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TRENDS

Gov. Fielding L. Wright, addressing the Mississippi Association of Teachers in Negro Public Schools, deprecated "outside efforts" to establish civil rights. "Inside neglect is worse than outside interference" was the provocative answer by Mr. W. Milan Davis, president of the Association.

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Maryland legislature, Apr. 2 — Fifty-seven votes were cast for repeal of a 45-year-old Jim Crow law for common carriers, and only 47 against. Still the bill did not pass, for a constitutional majority of 62 was needed. The law is enforced only on Chesapeake ferries.

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What Minorities?

"I think that the Senate of the U. S. is the last forum of free discussion on earth, the last citadel of individual rights, the last hope of the rights of free states, the last refuge of oppressed minorities."—(Sen. Russell of Ga., in the filibuster debate.)

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The South showed the greatest gains in the increase of interracial boards it was reported at the 18th National YWCA Convention at San Francisco. There were 14 such boards in the South in 1948 against 5 in 1945, and 3 in 1942.

Human Relations At Oak Ridge

OAK RIDGE, Tennessee, birthplace of the atomic bomb, is a good example of the genius and the stupidity of the modern man. Here the physical sciences have scored their greatest triumphs, and here the social sciences are scarcely recognized.

Much could be said about the significance of the fact that scientists must work behind barbed wire and armed guards, but we will call attention only to the contrast between what goes on inside the laboratories and what transpires on the outside.

On the inside of these fabulous piles of modern buildings, covering about ninety square miles, problems are solved by resorting to science and reason; on the outside "white supremacy," prejudice and tradition govern the relationships of the 35,607 white and 1,221 (3.4%) Negro citizens.

In the **Pittsburgh Courier** T. W. Anderson is doing a series of articles on race relations at Oak Ridge. He points out that there are four theatres at Oak Ridge, but Negroes do not attend them; there are beautifully landscaped residential areas but not where the Negroes live; there is a modern swimming pool but dark skinned citizens do not use it; Negroes sweep and clean but are not employed in clerical or administrative work, nor are they represented among the top scientists of many nationalities who are at work here. There is a modern, well equipped public school for Negro children but if they wish to attend high school they must go by bus to Knoxville.

Only children of the "superior" race attend high school at Oak Ridge.

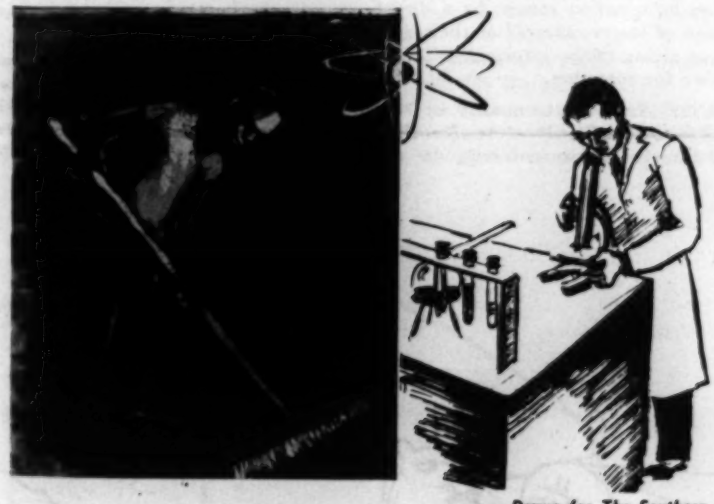
As It Should Be

On the good side, and one spot where democracy has a bridgehead in the city, is the hospital where four Negro nurses serve on the interracial staff.

Oak Ridge is a federally-owned-and-operated city. The government could end segregation if it so desired.

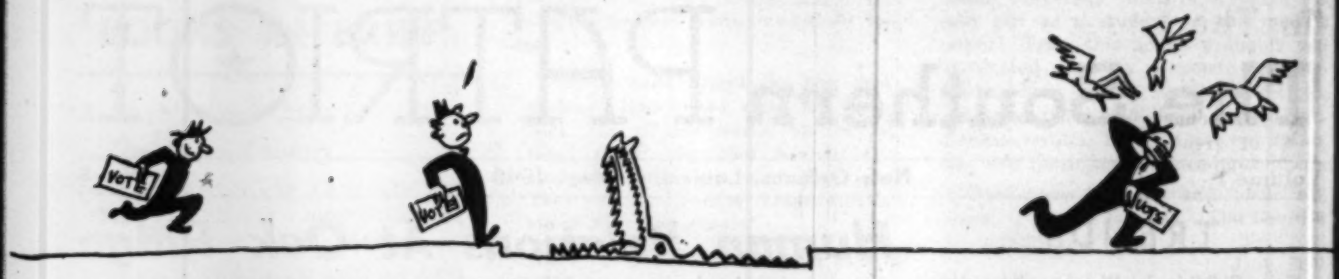
Through cooperation with Southern universities, through the Institute of Nuclear Studies and other agencies, Oak Ridge is making a valuable contribution to the South and the nation in the field of physical science. By eliminating segregation and by giving a laboratory demonstration of how the social sciences can solve problems of human relationships, Oak Ridge could render still greater service.

Perhaps in the long run the latter might be the more useful.



—Drawn for The Southern Patriot

Science plus white-supremacy. Formula for fascism or democracy?



VOTERS' STEEPLE-CHASE

THE 1949 legislature of one Southern state, Tennessee, made some seven league strides toward improved voting laws. A permanent registration law was passed. The poll tax was lifted as a prerequisite for voting in state primaries.

In other states, however, politicians plotted ways and means to keep citizens from registering and so from voting. In Alabama, Democratic State Chairman Gessner McCorvey, lamented that the Supreme Court's refusal to review, in effect confirming, a lower court's ruling, outlawing the Boswell Amendment, means that—

"We have just about thrown open the flood gates to indiscriminate registration" (Bghm Post 3-29-49)

The Constitutional Amendment adopted in 1946 required applicants for registration as voters to be able to "understand and explain" the United States Constitution.

McCorvey announced that he had a new plan based on the Mississippi plan that could be used to prevent "a vast horde of countless thousands of people" from voting. (ibid.)

Georgia's New Vote Law

The 1949 Georgia legislature passed Act 297. Under its provisions present registration lists will be wiped clean. The ballot box will be surrounded by a series of barbed wire entanglements in the form of an elaborate set of qualifications for potential voters. Here are a few examples of what is required.

Read Intelligibly, and Write Legibly

Sec. 15—The applicant shall be required to read it (the Constitution of Georgia and of the U. S.) aloud, **intelligibly"** and "write it out in the English Language **legibly."** If unable to read (due solely to physical disability) it will be read to him and he shall be **"required to give a reasonable interpretation of it."**

Sec. 17—If he cannot read or write he may qualify by **"reason of his good character and his understanding of the duties and obligations of citizenship under a republican form of government."**

Sec. 18 ". . . failure of applicant to disclose information sought by a direct question of the registrars" or their deputy—or giving "false information" shall be cause for rejection.

Sec. 22—In order to qualify by reason of his good character, etc. (see Sec. 17) he must answer correctly 10 out of 30 questions from a "Standard List of Questions and Answers."

The 30 questions and correct answers are listed. Here are a few samples: (1) name the Lt. Governor of Ga., (2) the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Ga., (3) give the number of your Congressional District, (4) your State Senatorial District number, (5) name your State Senator, (6) your County Representative in the State Legislature, (7) the Ordinary of your County, (8) the Solicitor General of your Circuit, (9) the Judge of the Superior Court.

The Boswell Amendment

The Georgia Voters Qualification and Registration law (Act 297) has much in common with Alabama's Boswell Amendment. On January 7th a federal district court stated:

"It clearly appears that this (Boswell) amendment was intended to be and is being used for the purpose of discriminatting against applicants for the franchise on the basis of race or color."

An editorial in the **Atlanta Journal** (3-31-49) commented on this ruling as follows:

"This is one of a series of sustained decisions by Southern jurists affirming that our primary election laws and practices must square with the national Constitution and that no attempts at evasion or subterfuge will stand. Georgia would do well to heed these examples from Texas, South Carolina and Alabama."

'In The Shadow Of The Atomic Bomb . . .'

By ALBERT EINSTEIN

ALL about us we see the wreckage of great hopes which mankind held for the building of peace. The gulf between East and West which men of good will have worked to close is widening daily. Some people believe that no reconciliation is possible and that another World War must decide any issue by such means—an atomic war will bring no real decision but only unprecedented death and devastation on both sides.

Such a time in history breeds defeatism and despair. But there are those among us who believe that man has within him the capacity to meet and overcome even the great tests of our times. What we must not lose, or we lose all, is our willingness to seek the truth and our courage to act upon the truth. If we maintain these, we cannot despair.

"We scientists believe upon ample evidence that the time of decision is upon us—that what we do or fail to do within the next few years will determine the fate of our civilization. We call for higher realism which recognizes that our fate is joined with that of our fellowmen throughout the world. Great ideas may often be expressed in very simple words. In the shadow of the atomic bomb it has become apparent that all men are brothers. If we recognize this as truth and act upon this recognition, mankind may go forward to a higher plane of human development. If the angry passions of a nationalistic world engulf us further, we are doomed.

The task of the scientist, as we conceive it, is untiringly to explain these truths, so that the American people will understand all that is at stake. We believe that with such understanding, the American people will choose from among many paths to reach a peaceful solution and that they will move toward such a solution and not toward war. And we believe that, in the long run, security for all nations demands a supranational solution.

Each of us, whether as scientists who worked to release atomic energy, or as citizens of the nation that applied the knowledge, stands accountable for the use we make of this tremendous new force. To our generation has come the possibility of making the most fateful decision in the recorded history of the human race. By an act of the collective will, we can ensure that this great and painful achievement of man's intellect, instead of turning upon that mankind, may be secured for the benefit of future generations. I believe that mankind, capable of reason, restraint and courage, will choose this path of peace.

Southern Governors

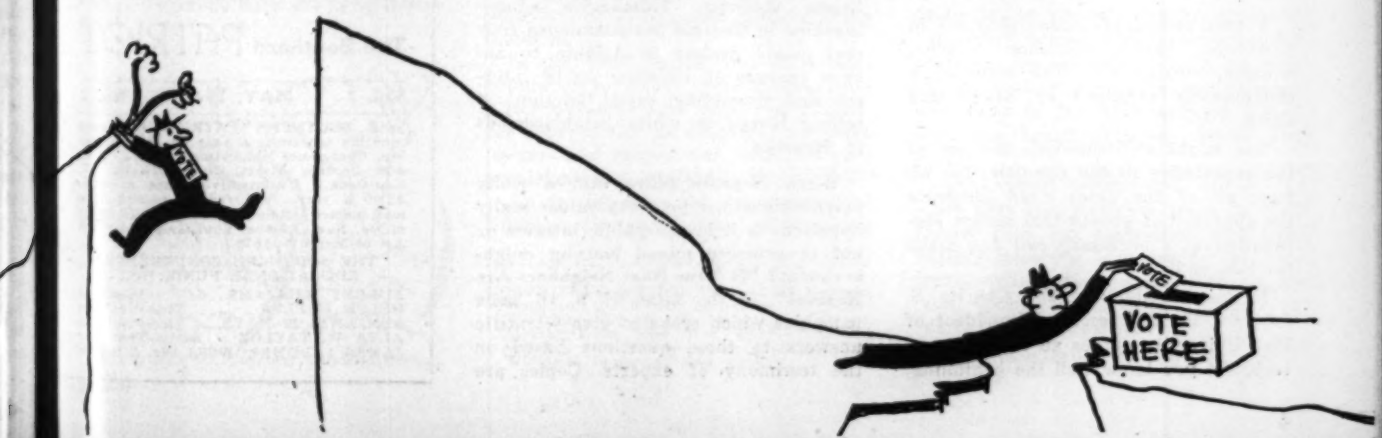
Not all Southern governors follow the Dixiecrat governors of Mississippi and South Carolina.

Gov. Scott of North Carolina might have used the appointment of a Senator to reward some financial angel or political follower. That he named an outstanding educator like Dr. Frank Graham is fresh evidence that a new type of chief executive is emerging in Southern political life.

One thinks in this connection of Gov. Ellis Arnall of Georgia who startled the nation by abolishing the poll tax and giving Georgia a "first" by granting 18-year-olds the right to vote.

Then there is 36-year old Sid McMath, the new Governor of Arkansas who sponsored an anti-lynch bill and a constitutional amendment to outlaw the poll tax as a prerequisite for voting. Both bills were defeated but the former lost in the Senate by a narrow vote of 15 to 12.

"——AND THE HOME OF THE BRAVE"

In Florida Gov. Fuller Warren asked for the resignation of one of his honorary colonels when it was disclosed that the officer was a leader of the Klan. This was followed by an announcement that the Chief Executive of the Nation's Southernmost State would seek to have the legislature outlaw the Klan, which he designated as "covered cowards."

And in Alabama, where the Klan has been much in evidence in recent weeks, Gov. Jim Folsom has ordered county sheriffs and state highway police to arrest drivers and riders in all cars that seek to hide car license numbers, "Mobs, hooded or not hooded, are not going to rule Alabama," said the Governor. "A man's home is his castle, and however he wants to defend it is entirely up to him."